

Now as an operational search, rescue and recovery dog, Deker is on call 24/7 to respond to any official agency in need of K-9 support. In 2009, Deker became a Reserve K-9 Deputy for the Clinton County Sheriff's Office, only the third dog to be so honored by our department. Although most of his calls for service come from agencies within Clinton County or adjacent communities, Deker has also been deployed over 50 times in three states and Canada on cases involving missing persons, murder, suicide, drownings, bank robbery, evidence search and fire scenes. Deker has located evidence related to a bank robbery and human remains relating to a murder. He has worked drownings on the Maquoketa, Mississippi & Canon Rivers to help bring closure to the loved ones of the missing. He has also assisted in numerous interstate, multi-agency missing person searches.

In combination with his SAR work, Deker is actively involved in educational and safety presentations at schools, civic groups, and safety events. He has met thousands of people, young and old, while participating in National Night Out and Fire Department Safety Days for families; Citizen Police Academies for adults; After School Programs for the middle schools; and Safety Towns for the preschool children. He has performed demonstrations at 4-H clubs, scout meetings, high school biology field days, church gatherings, library programs, and benefit events. Deker's trading cards are valued as keepsakes by children as well as adults.

Deker is also a nationally registered Therapy Dog. He routinely visits with seniors at the Sarah Harding Residence and with families of sick children at the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City. Deker has worked with patients under the direction of physical, occupational and recreational therapists at Genesis Medical Center performing a number of tricks and behaviors to assist in their rehabilitation programs. He has met with the children of military parents and with grieving families and friends during law enforcement memorials. He has also comforted the families and friends of missing persons on search and rescue missions.

Deker is an indispensable member of our community and our family. At home, he can be found guarding our property, at my side while I work, or napping on the bed. He is a true friend and my constant companion. Deker is a loyal partner who has certainly broken the mold of the typical police service dog. He has brought a smile to the faces of so many. Certainly, Deker has been a true ambassador and a shining star for the Collie breed.